recommendations of the Dewan Peishkars, and there was no guarantee that the best men from the community would be proposed for nomination. The Eazhava Members were thus coming to the Assembly annually by a sort of special selection, which depended upon the good-will of the local officers and of the Government. In his view, it was necessary to place the representation of the Eazhavas on a more stable and constitutional basis, and, for that purpose, he requested that a special electorate should be created for the Eazhavas for electing Members to the Assembly annually. He thought that, in view of the present unequal competition which could not be denied, the other communities would not, in fairness, grudge the concession asked for by the Eazhavas.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

140. The evils to which the Malayala Brahmins in general were subjected on account of certain practices in vogue among them and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. Devan Krishnaru (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) said that there were at present certain religious authorities common to the Malayala Brahmins, the Nayars and a few other communities. They were said to belong to six families with separate local jurisdiction. Formerly, the members of those families were well-versed in Sanskrit, the Sastras, the Vedas and other religious literature and were in every way competent to advise the members of any of the communities that sought their advice as to any *acharas*, and they also impartially prescribed the necessary observances, penalties and the like, according to the circumstances of each case. But it was regrettable that the above families had now fallen from their high standard, on account of lack of education and other causes. They nevertheless arrogated to themselves the powers of their forefathers and dictated the rites, penalties, &c., according to their whims and caprices and in blissful ignorance of what was ordained by the Sastras. It was no wonder if, under such circumstances, they pronounced conflicting decisions. Even between the several members of the same family, there was often divided opinion. It was therefore the more so between the authorities in the different families. He regretted to say that their decisions could easily be purchased for a small consideration. The hardships and evils to which the communities, whose religious authorities they were, suffered under such a state of affairs, were better imagined than described. The Government were also not unaware of the potentiality for evil of some of the authorities and the wrong way in which they used their so-called power. The recent Ulsavom troubles in the Chengannur Temple were the result of such a wrong use of power, and there was no limit to the number of suits, civil and criminal, which it had caused and was still causing. He said that it was very necessary that the Government should step in and protect the communities affected against the possibilities for evil caused by the vagaries of the few, who constituted themselves the accredited religious authorities of the communities. He suggested that the initiative and the ultimate disposal should not vest in the authorities. If, in any matter they thought that action in a particular way was needed, the religious authority concerned should move the matter to the local Tahsildar, who should then start an enquiry, obtain the opinion of the religious authority wherever necessary, and then pass a decision. As in other matters, an appeal might be provided from the decisions of the Tahsildar to the Division Peishkar, and finally to the Government. He prayed that some action on the lines indicated might be taken as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Certain suggestions to improve the Public Service.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that his first point was the entertainment of foreigners in the Public Service in preference to the sons of the soil. The headships of departments, such as the Police, Engineering, Medical and Educational, should be thrown open to natives, as in Mysore and Baroda. It was gratifying that the Government recently made a wholesome departure, though temporarily, from the long-followed *mamool*, in filling up the vacancy of the Commissioner of Police during his absence on leave. The re-

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form was necessary from the point of view of economy as well, because it was more costly to entertain foreigners, whose scale of remuneration had to be fixed according to their special requirements. The percentage of outside non-Travancoreans entertained in the service showed no signs of diminution in spite of the Government Proceedings on the subject. It was necessary that, in making a new appointment or filling up an old appointment, the Government should, as a rule, go in for a Travancorean in the first instance, and that only if they failed to get a proper person, they should think of bringing in foreigners. In short, the rule of Government should be strictly enforced.

Secondly, the two requisites that should be kept in view in judging of the Public Service of any State were economy and efficiency. Turning to the Travancore Public Service, it could not be said for certain whether those requisites had been steadily kept in view. Taking economy first, he said that some of the departments were over-staffed in point of numbers. In the Police, Engineering and Excise Departments, the Assistant Engineers who came between the Executive Engineers and the Overseers, the Circle Officers between the Assistant Commissioners and the Excise Inspectors, and the Circle Inspectors between the District Superintendents of Police and the Sub-Inspectors, could be safely done away with. If necessary, a Personal Assistant might be allowed to each District Superintendent. Another thing to be borne in mind was the inordinate increase of salaries and other emoluments to the higher grade officers in the State. The present salaries of the Chief Engineer, the Police Commissioner, the Director of Public Instruction and the Executive Engineers, were out of all proportion to the importance of the offices they held and the nature of the work they were called upon to do The effect of the recent reorganisations in the State had tended to disburden the heads of many departments of much of their work. While they were substantially relieved in their duties, their emoluments had not been proportionately cut down. It was bad economy to keep the subordinate service—both clerical and executive—on salaries unconscionably low. He mentioned, as an instance, the position of the Police constable, and suggested that his pay should not be less than Rs. 10. He said that the funds for replenishing the subordinate service need not be drawn from the State Exchequer but could be easily found by curtailing the high salaries of superior officers. The higher service being manned by men of education and liberal culture, they should not mind foregoing a portion of their emoluments in favour of their less fortunate brethren.

In regard to efficiency, taking a survey of the whole of the superior grades of the service, he thought that the service had not the very best men available for the places held by each. The fact could not be denied that there was an impression abroad that appointments and promotions did not go by considerations of service and merit. Such a popular impression could be avoided if the Government were to formulate and follow a definite set of rules in the matter of filling up appointments in the higher grades of the service. There should be a separate set of rules for the lower grades of the service. In view of the ever-increasing keenness of competition for appointments and the liability of the attitude of the Government being misconstrued by the people at large, it was all the more necessary to have some settled rules. As a first step, a Civil Service Examination might be instituted as in Mysore, which should be conducted by a competent body of Commissioners. Along with the success at the competition, the Government might also consider the character of the individual and the respectability of his family. The vacancies should not be permanently filled up as soon as they occurred, but should be kept open till competent men became available from those examinations. Provision might be made in the rules to be framed for some sort of special treatment for the backward classes.

Thirdly, the purity of the service had to be considered. The public had a right to demand that all public servants should be above corruption of all kinds. Though the public servants of the present day were decidedly superior, in point of integrity and competency, to their predecessors of fifty years ago and their counterparts in British India, it could not yet be said that, as a body, they had come up to the requisite standard of ethical purity. A good deal of corruption throve by stealth and luxuriantly in many corners of the service, and he said it had to be put a stop to at the earliest opportunity.

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Fourthly, the public service as at present constituted was absolutely wanting in co-ordination. Taking the superior grades of officers in the various departments, it would be clear that their salaries were not based on any uniform standard. He contrasted the salaries of the Excise Commissioner and the Police Commissioner, the Dewan Peishkars and the Executive Engineers, the Tahsildars and the Assistant Engineers or Headmasters of Schools, the Stationary Magistrates and the Circle Inspectors, and the District Judges and the College Professors, and said those were but a few instances of such striking disparity. In his opinion, there ought to be some equalisation of salaries in the different departments.

Lastly, the Member dwelt upon the safety of public servants. The duties of the administration regarding the Public Service were two-fold. The Government should protect the public from the infringement of their rights and liberties by public servants. They should also protect the public servants from the unfounded attacks on them by the public and from the autocratic treatment by their superior officers. Grievances against public servants should be promptly enquired into. There was a set of rules to regulate such enquiries, but therules were hardly observed. Under no circumstances should the punishment inflicted on a public servant produce a humiliating and demoralising effect. There should also be a sense of proportion maintained between the punishment and the nature or gravity of the offence alleged or proved. Appeals from public servants should be promptly heard, and the right of representation by Vakils should be allowed to appellants, so that the points of grievance might be better placed before the Government and in a comparatively shorter period of time.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

142. The necessity for entertaining qualified Eazhavas more freely in the Public Service

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan (Member, Nominated) said that, in spite of the vigorous representation of the Eazhava Members of the Assembly from year to year and the favorable orders issued by the Government, there had been no marked improvement in the matter of the entertainment of the Eazhavas in the Public Service. He then took up department after department and said that comparatively very few appointments had been given to the members of the community since the last Session of the Assembly. According to his figures, 4 appointments in the Police, 11 in the Excise, 10 in the Forest, 2 in the Public Works, 14 in the Education, 2 in the Registration, 3 in the Judicial, 2 in the Anchel, and 2 in the Agricultural departments had alone been given to them during the last one year. In the Police, a single constable and 3 clerks were alone appointed. The difficulty of enlisting Eazhavas in the Police Department was unnecessarily exaggerated. The difficulty of their access to all places was a thing of the past. He therefore asked for a larger representation in that department. The Excise Department also could very well take in more Eazhavas, and it should be insisted on. In the Forest Department, very few volunteered to take up service; and in the Education Department, there was a paucity of teachers. That accounted for a good number of Eazhavas having been appointed in them. In regard to the Revenue Department, there was the impression that the community could not get in, owing to the existence of the Devaswoms. But there were several appointments in it, which were quite unconnected with Devaswom work. The Eazhavas could very well be appointed to them. In British India, Eazhavas were appointed Proverthicars and Proverthy Accountants. In the Secretariat also, not one appointment had been granted to an Eazhava. He then said that, even after securing appointments, the community suffered much in the matter of promotions. Their claims were often overlooked in giving promotions. He therefore requested that instructions should be issued to heads of departments to entertain qualified Eazhavas more largely in the service and also to give them their legitimate promotions.

[Before closing, the Member referred to Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, who had recently been elevated to the Dewanship of Baroda. As the Dewan of Travancore, he had, in the short space of two years, introduced several wholesome and lasting reforms for the country's good, the foremost of which was the creation of the Sri

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